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Page: 1

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PAGE 01  
ACTION ARA-15

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R 231219Z JAN 79  
FM AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9189  
INFO AMEMBASSY ASUNCION  
AMEMBASSY MEXICO  
AMEMBASSY MONTEVIDEO  
AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO  
USCINCSO QUARRY HTS CZ

ARGENTINA PROJECT (S2000000044)  
U.S. DEPT. OF STATE, A/RPS/IPS  
Margaret P. Grafeld, Director  
☒ Release ☐ Excise ☐ Deny

Exemption(s):  
Declassify: ☐ In Part ☒ In Full  
☐ Classify as ☐ Extend as ☐ Downgrade to  
Date ☐ Declassify on ☐ Reason

[REDACTED] BUENOS AIRES 0621

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y - (TEXT, PARAGRAPH 2)

E.O. 12065: GDS 1/22/85 (HARRIS, F. ALLEN) OR-P  
TAGS: SHUM AR  
SUBJ: (U) MOTHERS OF THE PLAZA DE MAYO

REF: BUENOS AIRES 350 (NOTAL)

1. ENTIRE TEXT [REDACTED].

2. MOTHERS WITHDRAW FROM PLAZA-----  
THE MOTHERS OF THE PLAZA DE MAYO, AFTER THREE THURSDAYS  
OF POLICE HARASSMENT AND BRIEF DETENTIONS (REFTTEL), HAVE DECIDED TO  
ABANDON TEMPORARILY THEIR DEMONSTRATIONS IN THE PLAZA  
DE MAYO. SEVERAL MOTHERS CALLED AT THE EMBASSY ON JANUARY 17TH  
AND 19TH TO EXPLAIN THAT THEY HAD DECIDED TO  
MEET ON THURSDAY AFTERNOONS DURING JANUARY AT SELECTED  
CHURCHES INSTEAD OF DEMONSTRATING IN THE PLAZA. THEY  
STATED FRANKLY THEIR FEAR OF BEING ARRESTED, NOTING  
THEIR ONGOING RESPONSIBILITIES TO THEIR FAMILIES. THE  
MOTHERS STATED THAT THEY PLAN TO HOLD A DEMONSTRATION  
ON THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 1ST IN THE PLAZA DE FLORES IN  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

PAGE 02 BUENOS 00621 250204Z

CENTRAL BUENOS AIRES.

Current Class: [REDACTED]

Page: 1

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

Current Class: [REDACTED]  
Current Handling: n/a  
Document Number: 1979BUENOS00621

Page: 2

Channel: n/a

3. MOTHERS' GROUP MEMBERS TRAVELING TO PUEBLA CONFERENCE -  
FOUR OF THE MOTHERS' GROUP--MARIA GARD DE ANTOKOLETZ,  
CARMEN LAPACO, MARTA OCAMPO DE VAZQUEZ AND NORA  
MORALEZ DE CORTINAS--LEFT ARGENTINA ON JANUARY 20 FOR  
THE LATIN AMERICAN CATHOLIC BISHOPS CONFERENCE IN  
PUEBLA. THE MOTHERS PLAN TO MEET WITH AS MANY CHURCH  
OFFICIALS AS POSSIBLE DURING THE PUEBLA MEETING TO  
URGE THE BISHOPS TO RECOGNIZE THE "DESAPARECIDO PROBLEM"  
IN ARGENTINA. THE MOTHERS WILL BE CARRYING WITH THEM  
THE LIST OF 4,381 DISAPPEARANCE CASES RECENTLY ISSUED  
BY THE PERMANENT ASSEMBLY FOR HUMAN RIGHTS. SOME OF  
THE MOTHERS SAY THEY PLAN TO CONTINUE TO WASHINGTON  
AFTER THE PUEBLA CONFERENCE TO MEET WITH MEMBERS OF  
CONGRESS AND ADMINISTRATION OFFICIALS WHO WERE NOT  
IN TOWN WHEN SEVERAL MOTHERS VISITED WASHINGTON IN  
DECEMBER. THE MOTHERS MAY NOTIFY AMEMBASSY MEXICO  
OF THEIR WASHINGTON TRAVEL PLANS.

4. EMBASSY COMMENT: AS WE EXPECTED, THE POLICE ACTION  
IN CLOSING THE PLAZA DE MAYO AND ARRESTING AND  
THREATENING THE MOTHERS WITH IMPRISONMENT HAS FORCED  
THE LOOSELY STRUCTURED GROUP TO SEEK NEW WAYS TO  
EXPRESS THEIR CONCERNS.  
CASTRO

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Current Class: [REDACTED]

Page: 2

UNCLASSIFIED